



CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

DATE: March 30, 2004

**SUBJECT: Sharpe Community Partnership Program
Student Survey**

The Planning Department participated again this year with the Sharpe Community Partnership Program at the College of William and Mary. According to the College, "The Sharpe Community Partnership is residential program that extends William and Mary's long-held tradition of public and community service. Nurturing both responsible citizenship and energetic involvement in the community is part of the College's mission. In the spirit of our mission and traditions, students who participate will live in Sharpe residences, enroll in program-sponsored seminars, take part in public forums, and work on community projects – all as a way of encouraging first year students to explore issues in our national life and to become directly involved in these issues through public service."

The 2001-02 project was on the impact of off-campus student housing, and the 2002-2003 project developed an Off-Campus Housing web site, which is accessible through the William and Mary web site at <http://web.wm.edu/sharpefellowship/index.php>.

This year's project, which started with the traditional bicycle tour of the City, developed a survey about the City that was given to William and Mary students. The student views expressed in the survey results will be used as input for the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The survey was sent out on March 15, and over 800 completed surveys were received.

Freshman students Jonathan Hemler, Cara Lodigiani, Colin Verbesey, Nicholas Walsh, and Cathy Young were the project team, assisted by Sharpe Fellow and graduate student Steven Combs. We have met weekly at the Planning Department over the past year becoming familiar with the City and developing the survey, and the students will give a presentation on the survey results at the April 5 City Council work session (2:00 p.m.) and the April 5 Planning Commission work session (6:30 p.m.).

Reed T. Nester, AICP
Planning Director